

SENATE RESOLUTION 27

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the students of Hamilton County who participated in Project I.M.P.A.C.T.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those high school students who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the young men and women who have dedicated their time and energies in participation in Project I.M.P.A.C.T., is a group of such students; and

WHEREAS, Project I.M.P.A.C.T. (Infant Mortality Public Awareness Campaign for Tennessee) is a statewide youth messaging campaign developed by the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination in an effort to improve birth outcomes in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Project I.M.P.A.C.T. is focused on training and educating youth to develop media messages for their peers in an effort to increase awareness of the causes of infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, Project I.M.P.A.C.T. began in 2008 with high school students from Davidson County, Hamilton County, and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, through a number of educational activities designed to broaden their knowledge of issues relevant to poor birth outcomes in their communities, these high school students have participated in classroom lectures, roundtable discussions, tours, service learning experiences, and question and answer sessions with maternal and child health service providers; and

WHEREAS, the three main concepts of Project I.M.P.A.C.T. are Youth Education, Youth Skills Development, and Message Dissemination. These concepts were designed to empower

the student activists in their efforts to improve their communities and the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, using concepts designed to teach team building, action, research, and service, Project I.M.P.A.C.T. student participants developed fifteen unique public service announcements for radio, television, and print advertisements, each attempting to raise awareness about infant mortality in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a variety of methods and approaches were utilized by the student participants to spread the message of Project I.M.P.A.C.T. throughout their communities and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Project I.M.P.A.C.T. has benefitted greatly from the efforts of the participating students, especially those from Hamilton County. Those intrepid and concerned students are: Briana Dobler, Markesha Dunham, Preston Harris, Gabriela Hernandez, Jamiecia Love, Jasmine Ray, Sean Ruff, Lhadijah Sanders, Kermisha Tate, and Janelle Tonge; and

WHEREAS, through their participation in Project I.M.P.A.C.T., these students act as tremendous ambassadors for the State of Tennessee and leaders in the campaign to raise public awareness of the causes of infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, by providing forums on infant mortality and related topics, establishing peer education in area public and private schools, and creating new public service announcements, these students are disseminating their message as widely as possible, providing a great service to their community; and

WHEREAS, we should pause in our deliberations to commend these outstanding young people for their respective efforts in raising awareness about the causes, effects, and prevention of infant mortality; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend students from Hamilton County who have participated in Project I.M.P.A.C.T. student ambassadors for their meritorious service to their community and to the State of Tennessee, extending to them our best wishes for their every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.